

<u>DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS MANUAL</u>	
COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	CHAPTER 14.3
ARTICLE 7	HOISTING
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Section 45.1-161.159. A.&C.

Hoisting Engineer

Availability of Hoisting Engineer and Use of Automatic Elevator Operator:

The Chief has determined a “reasonable time” to be not more than thirty minutes for a person qualified as an automatic elevator operator or hoisting engineer to be available where miners are transported into and out of underground areas of a mine by hoists or on surface inclines. This section of the MSA does not govern where these certified persons may be located as long as they are available within thirty minutes. However, these persons obviously cannot be located underground.

If an automatic elevator is malfunctioning and not operating fully automatic, an automatic elevator operator may operate the hoist manually only to bring personnel from the mine in an emergency situation.

The purpose for this section of the MSA is to assure that the appropriate qualified persons are available to remove personnel from underground within a reasonable time particularly in cases of an emergency.